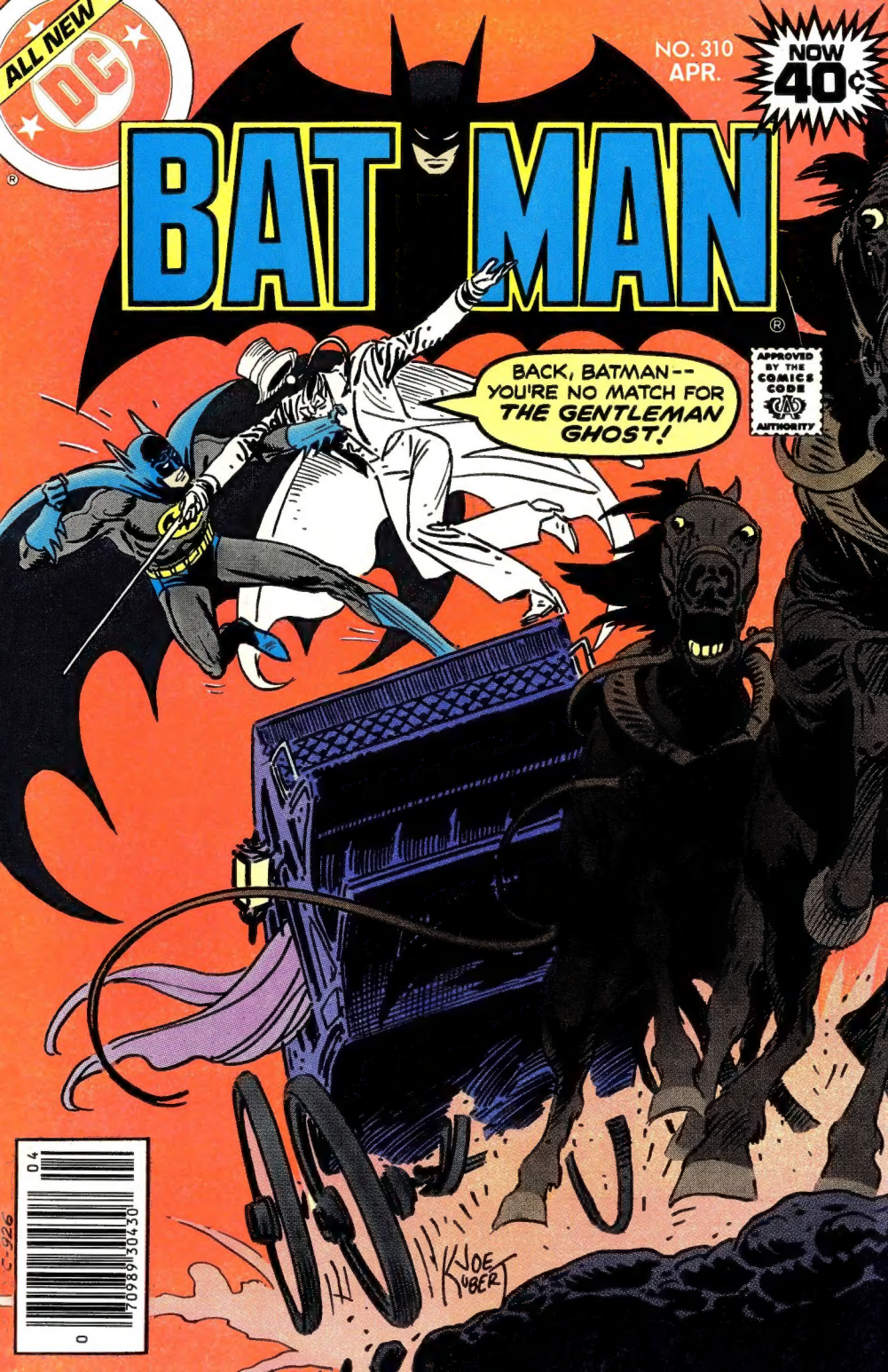
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JOE KUBERT

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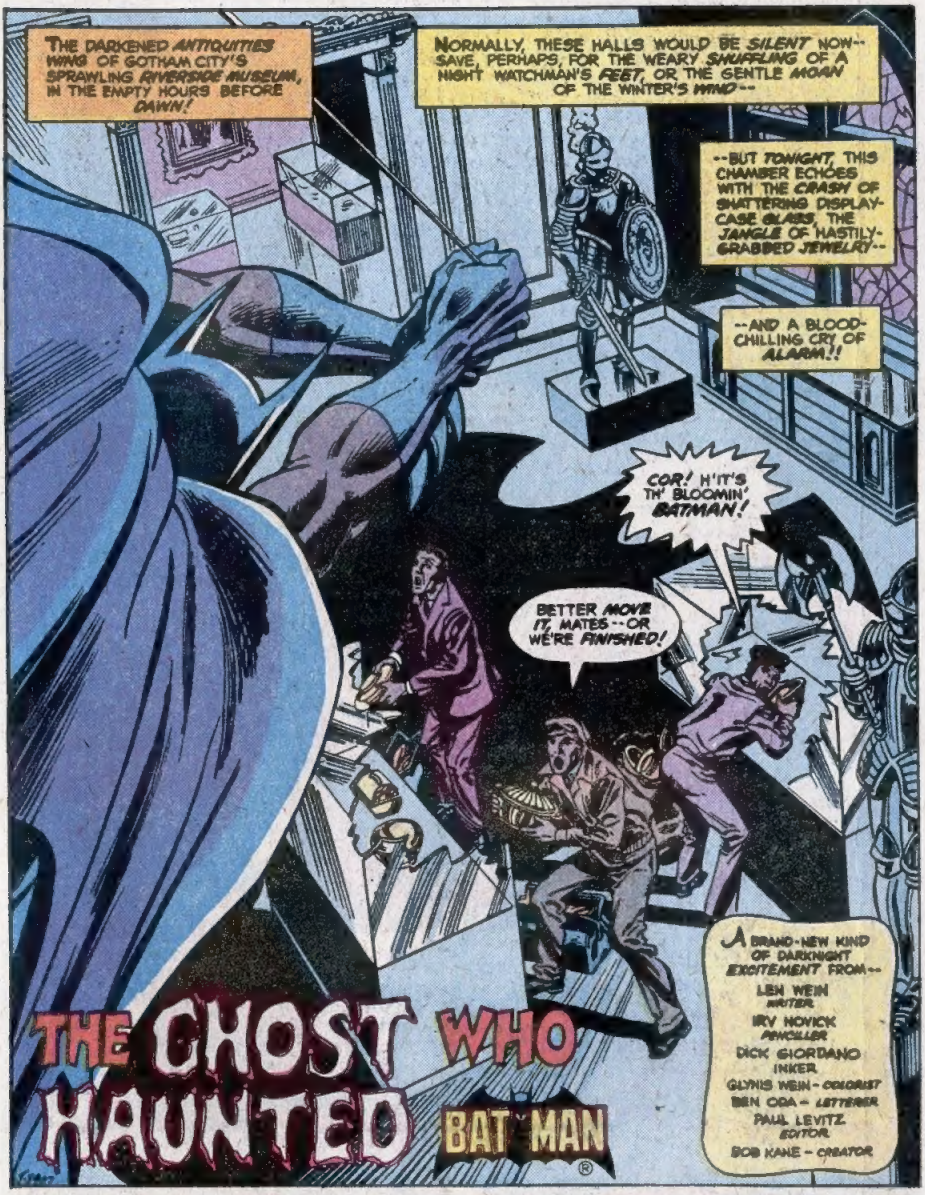
THE DARKENED ANTIQUITIES WING OF GOTHAM CITY'S SPRAWLING RIVERSIDE MUSEUM, IN THE EMPTY HOURS BEFORE DAWN!
NORMALLY, THESE HALLS WOULD BE SILENT NOW--SAVE, PERHAPS, FOR THE WEARY SHUFFLING OF A NIGHT WATCHMAN'S FEET, OR THE GENTLE MOAN OF THE WINTER'S WIND--
--BUT TONIGHT, THIS CHAMBER ECHOES WITH THE CRASH OF SHATTERING DISPLAY-CASE GLASS, THE JANGLE OF HASTILY-GRABBED JEWELRY--
--AND A BLOOD-CHILLING CRY OF ALARM!!
COR! H'IT'S TH' BLOOMIN' BATMAN!
BETTER MOVE IT, MATES--OR WE'RE FINISHED!
THE GHOST WHO HAUNTED BAT MAN
A BRAND-NEW KIND OF DARKNIGHT EXCITEMENT FROM--
LEN WEIN WRITER
IRV NOVICK PENCILLER
DICK GIORDANO INKER
GLYNIS WEIN - COLORIST
BEN ODA - LETTERER
PAUL LEVITZ EDITOR
BOB KANE - CREATOR

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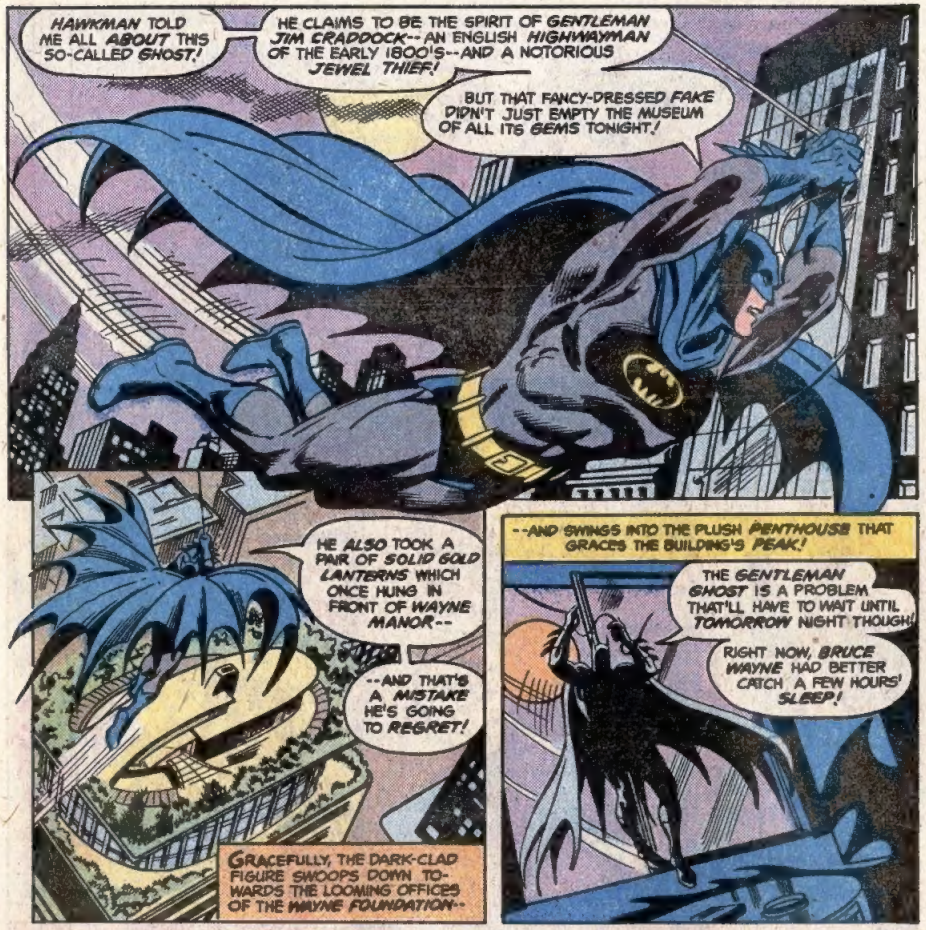
BUT EVEN AS THE CAPED CRUSADER DESCENDS LIKE A SOMBER SHADOW, HIS PREY IS SCRAMBLING AMONG THE WEAPONS RACKS, AND...
OKAY, MASKED MAN-- BACK OFF!
WE'RE COMIN' THROUGH, MATE-- ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
THEY'VE GOT THE EDGE...
...BUT NOT FOR LONG!
BLIMEY! OW'D 'E DO THAT? AIN'T NOBODY CAN MOVE THAT FAST!
DRROOM
YOU'RE JUST LUCKY I DIDN'T GRAB AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON, CHUM!
BUT THEN, I DON'T REALLY NEED ONE AGAINST PUNKS LIKE YOU NOW...
...DO I?
WAP!
WOK!
OBVIOUSLY NOT! I HAVE HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU, BATMAN!
I MUST ADMIT ALL OF IT WAS TRUE... AND THEN SOME!
WHO--?!?
2

PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, GOOD SIR. I AM CALLED... THE GENTLEMAN GHOST!
AND I HAVE RATHER BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR FIRST MEETING!
A PITY IT MUST ALSO BE OUR LAST!
HIS FINGER IS TIGHTENING ON THE TRIGGER--! BUT THIS SHIELD SHOULD DEFLECT THE FLINTLOCK'S SLUG...
...I HOPE!
BAM!
HUH? THE BULLET NEVER REACHED ME! IT--IT'S JUST HOVERING THERE...
...WAITING!
IT WAS A SUCKER PLAY--AND I FELL FOR IT!
SLUG'S EXPLODING--LIKE A MAGNESIUM FLARE--!
VROOSH!
BLASTED LIGHT'S BLINDED ME-- CAN'T SEE--!
WHICH IS A PERFECT CUE FOR MY CRONIES AND MYSELF TO TAKE OUR LEAVE!
FAREWELL, BATMAN... I AM CONFIDENT OUR PATHS WILL NOT CROSS AGAIN!
AND, MOMENTS LATER, WHEN THE MASKED MANHUNTER HAS REGAINED HIS SIGHT...
YOU'RE WRONG, GHOST--WE WILL DEFINITELY MEET AGAIN!
YOU CAN BET YOUR-- ER--LIFE ON IT!


HAWKMAN TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THIS SO-CALLED GHOST!
HE CLAIMS TO BE THE SPIRIT OF GENTLEMAN JIM CRADDOCK--AN ENGLISH HIGHWAYMAN OF THE EARLY 1800'S--AND A NOTORIOUS JEWEL THIEF!
BUT THAT FANCY-DRESSED FAKE DIDN'T JUST EMPTY THE MUSEUM OF ALL ITS GEMS TONIGHT!
HE ALSO TOOK A PAIR OF SOLID GOLD LANTERNS WHICH ONCE HUNG IN FRONT OF WAYNE MANOR--
--AND THAT'S A MISTAKE HE'S GOING TO REGRET!
GRACEFULLY, THE DARK-CLAD FIGURE SWOOPS DOWN TOWARDS THE LOOMING OFFICES OF THE WAYNE FOUNDATION--
--AND SWINGS INTO THE PLUSH PENTHOUSE THAT GRACES THE BUILDING'S PEAK!
THE GENTLEMAN GHOST IS A PROBLEM THAT'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT THOUGH!
RIGHT NOW, BRUCE WAYNE HAD BETTER CATCH A FEW HOURS' SLEEP!
ALFRED!
ALFRED, I'M HOME!
ALFRED?
THAT'S ODD. ALFRED IS ALMOST ALWAYS WAITING FOR ME WITH A CUP OF HOT SOUP!
I KNOW TONIGHT WAS HIS NIGHT OFF--BUT HE'S USUALLY BACK BY NOW!
STILL, I NEEDN'T WORRY, MY BRIGHT-EYED BUTLER CAN MORE THAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!
I'M SURE HE'LL TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT WHEN I WAKE UP!
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

Remember How Many Times You Felt *Left Out*

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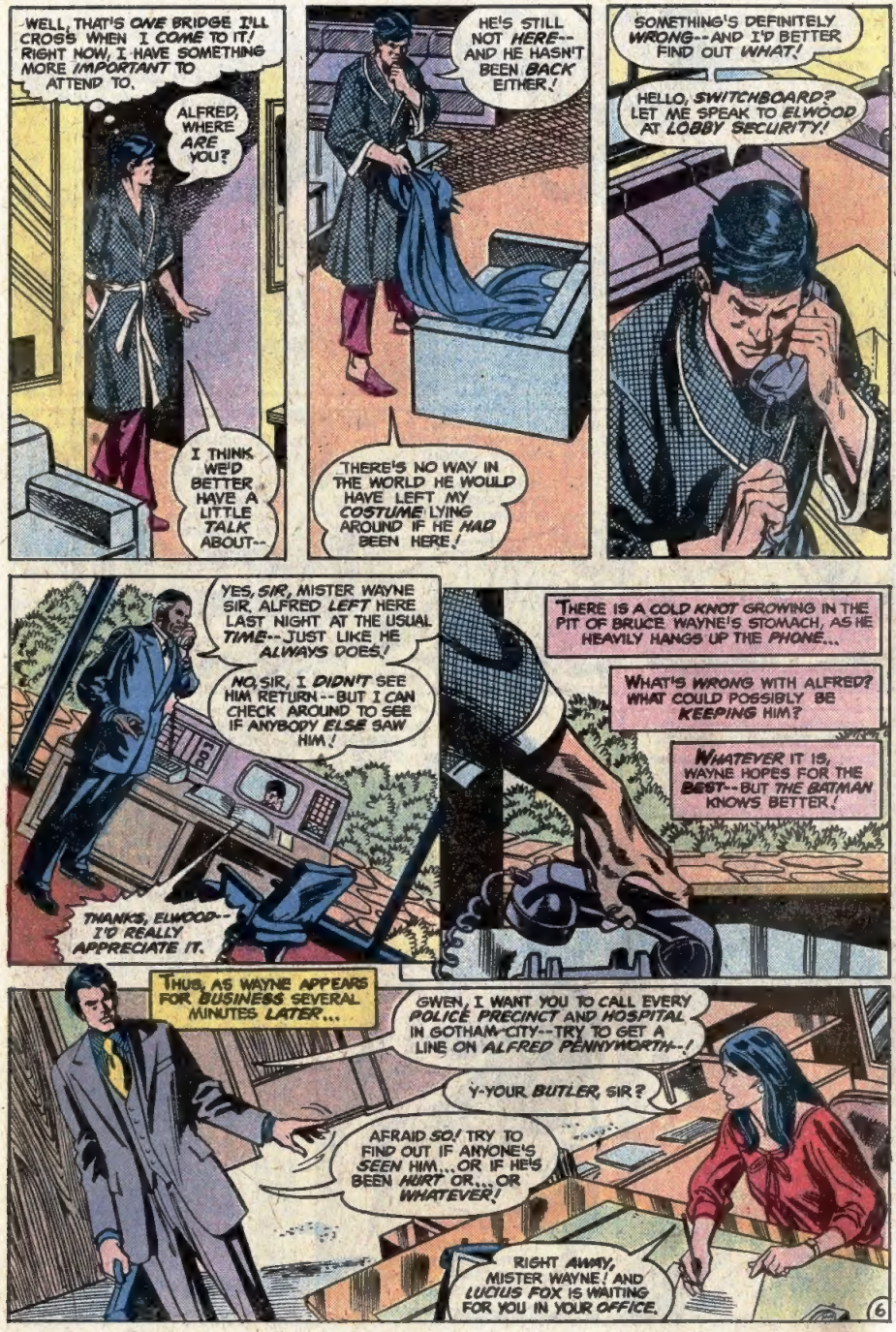
BUT SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
EH?
ALFRED, WILL YOU GET THE PHONE, PLEASE?
RRINNG!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY? HE NEVER ALLOWS MY SLEEP TO BE DISTURBED LIKE THIS!
HELLO? WAYNE HERE!
GOOD MORNING, BRUCE. I HOPE I'M NOT BOTHERING YOU AT ALL.
THIS IS SELINA KYLE!
WELL, HI THERE -- AND WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU MIGHT BE FREE TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER TONIGHT--
--SO WE CAN DISCUSS MY PLANNED INVESTMENTS IN WAYNE ENTERPRISES?
I'M TOLD THERE'S THE MOST DELICIOUS LITTLE RESTAURANT ON THE EAST SIDE-- SPECIALIZING IN CUISINE FROM KATMANDU!
INTERESTED?
VERY! BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, I'LL BE TIED UP TONIGHT--
--TRACKING DOWN A CERTAIN SO-CALLED SPIRIT!
WOULD YOU BE INCLINED TO TAKE A RAIN CHECK? SAY, FOR LUNCH TOMORROW INSTEAD?
THAT WOULD BE PERFECT, BRUCE...
...JUST PERFECT.
TILL TOMORROW THEN. I'LL BE WAITING... BREATHLESSLY.
SHE SEEMED SO OPEN...SO HONEST... NOT AT ALL LIKE THE CALCULATING CRIMINAL SHE ONCE WAS!
CAN SHE BE TELLING THE TRUTH? IS HER CAREER AS THE CATWOMAN FINALLY OVER?
AND IF SO... WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?
5


WELL, THAT'S ONE BRIDGE I'LL CROSS WHEN I COME TO IT! RIGHT NOW, I HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO ATTEND TO.
ALFRED, WHERE ARE YOU?
I THINK WE'D BETTER HAVE A LITTLE TALK ABOUT--
HE'S STILL NOT HERE--AND HE HASN'T BEEN BACK EITHER!
THERE'S NO WAY IN THE WORLD HE WOULD HAVE LEFT MY COSTUME LYING AROUND IF HE HAD BEEN HERE!
SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY WRONG--AND I'D BETTER FIND OUT WHAT!
HELLO, SWITCHBOARD? LET ME SPEAK TO ELWOOD AT LOBBY SECURITY!
YES, SIR, MISTER WAYNE SIR, ALFRED LEFT HERE LAST NIGHT AT THE USUAL TIME--JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES!
NO, SIR, I DIDN'T SEE HIM RETURN--BUT I CAN CHECK AROUND TO SEE IF ANYBODY ELSE SAW HIM!
THANKS, ELWOOD--I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
THERE IS A COLD KNOT GROWING IN THE PIT OF BRUCE WAYNE'S STOMACH, AS HE HEAVILY HANGS UP THE PHONE...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ALFRED? WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE KEEPING HIM?
WHATEVER IT IS, WAYNE HOPES FOR THE BEST--BUT THE BATMAN KNOWS BETTER!
THUS, AS WAYNE APPEARS FOR BUSINESS SEVERAL MINUTES LATER...
GWEN, I WANT YOU TO CALL EVERY POLICE PRECINCT AND HOSPITAL IN GOTHAM CITY--TRY TO GET A LINE ON ALFRED PENNYWORTH--!
Y-YOUR BUTLER, SIR?
AFRAID SO! TRY TO FIND OUT IF ANYONE'S SEEN HIM...OR IF HE'S BEEN HURT OR...OR WHATEVER!
RIGHT AWAY, MISTER WAYNE! AND LUCIUS FOX IS WAITING FOR YOU IN YOUR OFFICE.

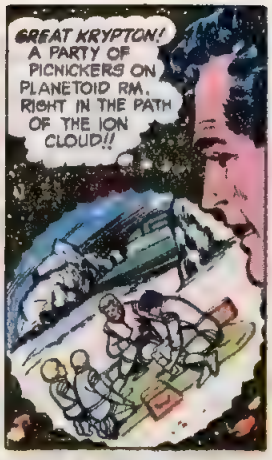
'MORNING, BRUCE--YOU'RE LATE. WE...
HEY, IS ANYTHING WRONG?
I'M REALLY NOT SURE YET, LUCIUS--AND THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS ME.
ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR YOU WANTED TO SEE ME ABOUT?
OH, NOTHING SPECIAL. I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT ME TO PREPARE YOU FOR THAT BOARD MEETING YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CHAIR RIGHT NOW.
BLAST! I'VE BEEN SO DISTRACTED I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT.
IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN POSTPONE IT?
NOT UNLESS YOU WANT GREGORIAN FALSTAFF TO OUTBID YOU ON THOSE DRILLING RIGHTS!
I WARNED YOU WHEN THAT MAN FIRST CAME TO GOTHAM, BRUCE--HE WAS GOING TO BE TROUBLE!
I'M JUST SORRY TO SEE THAT I WAS RIGHT!
THAT'S WHY I HIRED YOU, LUCIUS--YOU'RE ALMOST ALWAYS RIGHT!
WELL, IF I CAN'T AVOID THIS--I MIGHT AS WELL GET IT OVER WITH!
COMING, MR. FOX?
RIGHT BESIDE YOU, MR. WAYNE!
MR. WAYNE, I'VE CALLED EVERYONE I COULD THINK OF--BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND A TRACE OF YOUR BUTLER ANYWHERE!
JUST KEEP TRYING, GWEN. ALFRED HAS TO BE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE--
--AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO QUIT UNTIL WE FIND HIM!
SO THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG, EH?
ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, BRUCE--JUST ASK!
7

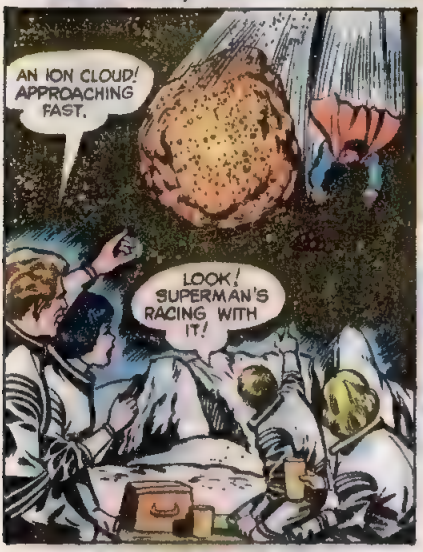
BUT, APPARENTLY, NOTHING ANYONE DOES ACCOMPLISHES ANYTHING!
THUS, AS GOTHAM IS SHROUDED IN DARKNESS ONCE MORE...
NOT A WORD FROM ALFRED ALL DAY! IT'S AS IF THE CITY SIMPLY SWALLOWED HIM WHOLE!
ON HIS EVENINGS OFF, ALFIE ALWAYS PASSES THE TIME IN A QUIET ENGLISH-STYLE PUB ON THE WEST SIDE--
--A LITTLE PLACE CALLED YE PIPE AND HEARTH!
IF I INTEND TO PICK UP ALFRED'S TRAIL, THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO START!
--ONCE I TAKE CARE OF A FEW PREPARATIONS!
AND, MINUTES LATER, A JAUNTY ROTUND FIGURE WITH PENETRATING EYES AMBLES AMIABLY INTO THE WELL-PACKED PUBLIC HOUSE...
IT WOULDN'T BE WISE TO START PEOPLE WONDERING WHY THE BATMAN IS ASKING AFTER BRUCE WAYNE'S VALET--
--BUT NOBODY'S EVEN LIKELY TO NOTICE ANOTHER BUTLER ASKING!
BUT WHEN THE GUILEFULLY-GUISED BATMAN POSES A FEW CAREFULLY-CONCEIVED QUESTIONS...
ALFRED? AYE, HE WAS IN LAST NIGHT AS USUAL--AND NOTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS HERE!
YOU'RE CERTAIN OF THAT?
WOULDN'T BE SO CERTAIN IF I WAS 'IM, MATE. SEEMS I REMEMBER A CHAP WHAT FOLLOWED OL' ALFIE OUT OF 'ERE LAST NIGHT.
BIT OF A TOFF 'E WAS, TOO!
DID YOU SEE WHICH WAY THEY WENT?
MATE, BY THAT TIME, I WAS LUCKY TO SEE THE BOTTOM O' ME GLASS!
WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, GENTLEMEN--AND YOUR INFORMATION!
...WHAT LITTLE THERE WAS OF IT!
8

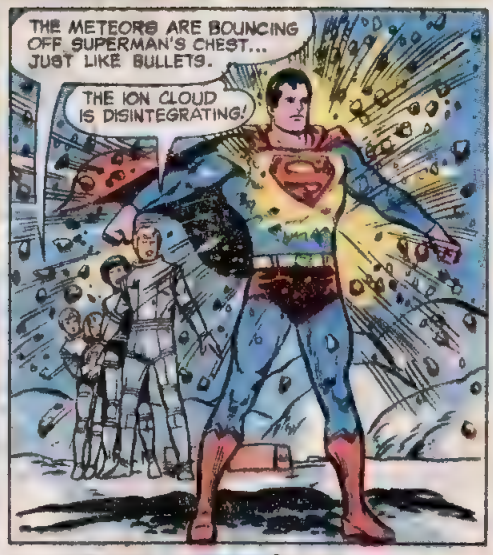
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

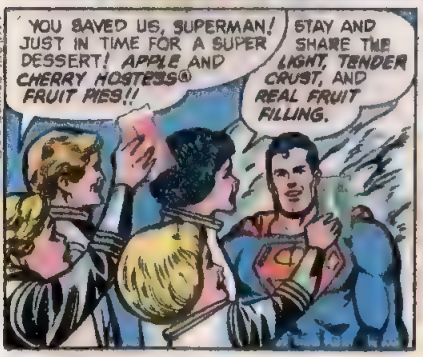
ADVERT SEMENT

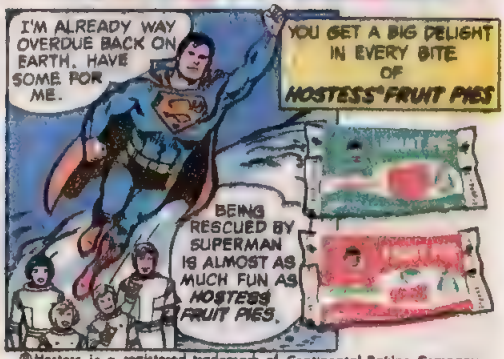
SUPERMAN IN THE IONIC STORM
AN ION CLOUD... FILLED WITH MINIATURE METEORS. ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS NATURAL FORCES IN THIS GALAXY!








YOU SAVED US, SUPERMAN! JUST IN TIME FOR A SUPER DESSERT! APPLE AND CHERRY HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES!!
STAY AND SHARE THE LIGHT, TENDER CRUST, AND REAL FRUIT FILLING.


I'M ALREADY WAY OVERDUE BACK ON EARTH. HAVE SOME FOR ME.
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES
BEING RESCUED BY SUPERMAN IS ALMOST AS MUCH FUN AS HOSTESS FRUIT PIES.

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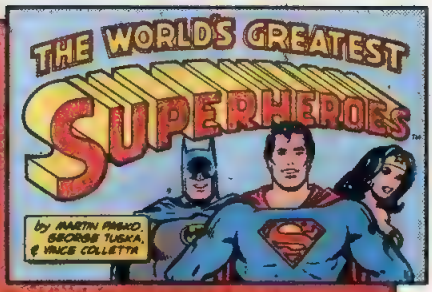
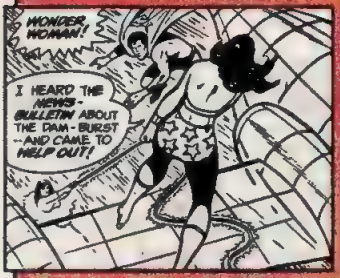
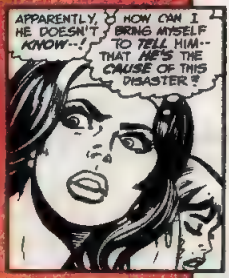
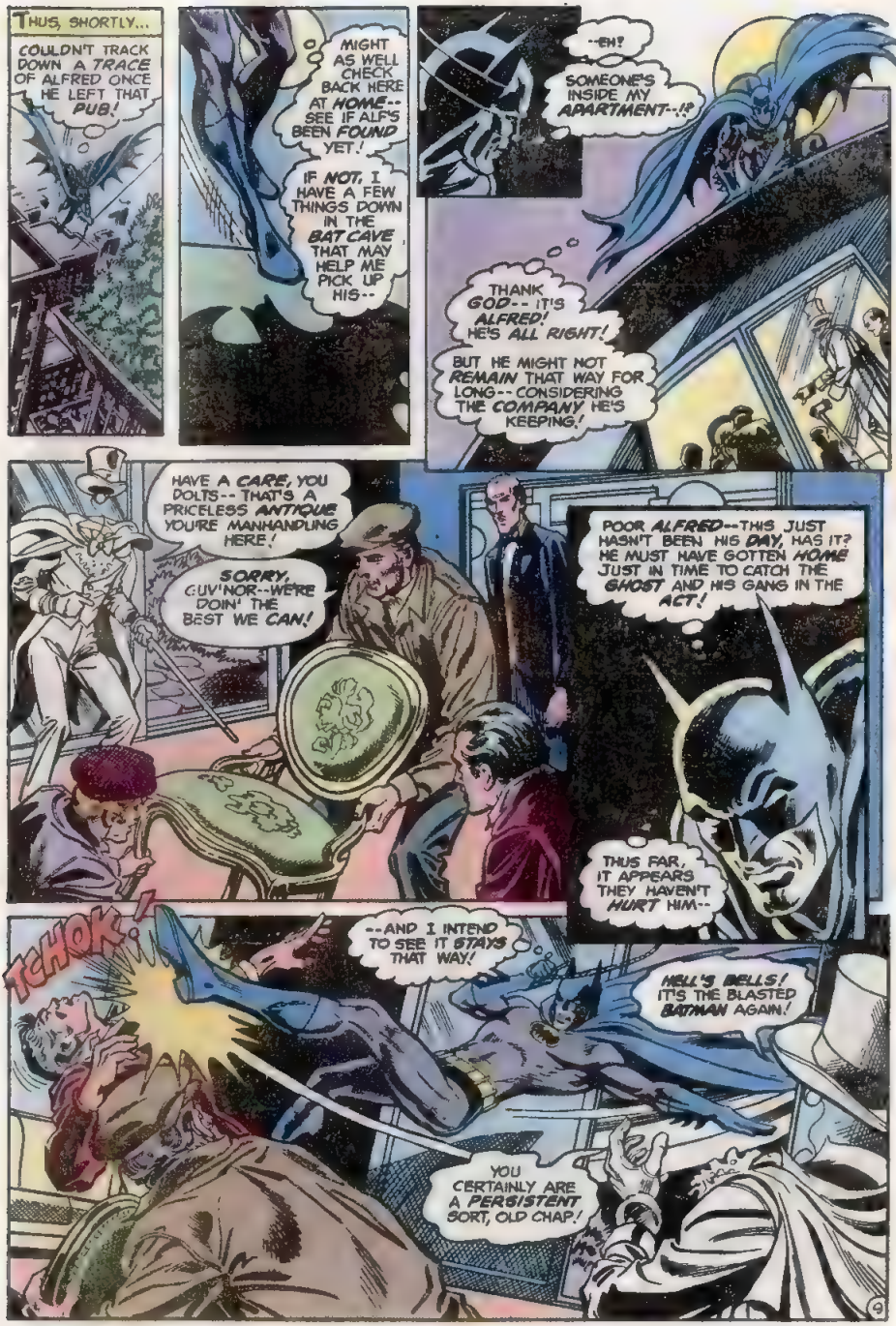
FOLLOW THE UP-TO-THE MINUTE ADVENTURES OF YOUR FAVORITE SUPER-STARS SUPERMAN, WONDER WOMAN and BATMAN in

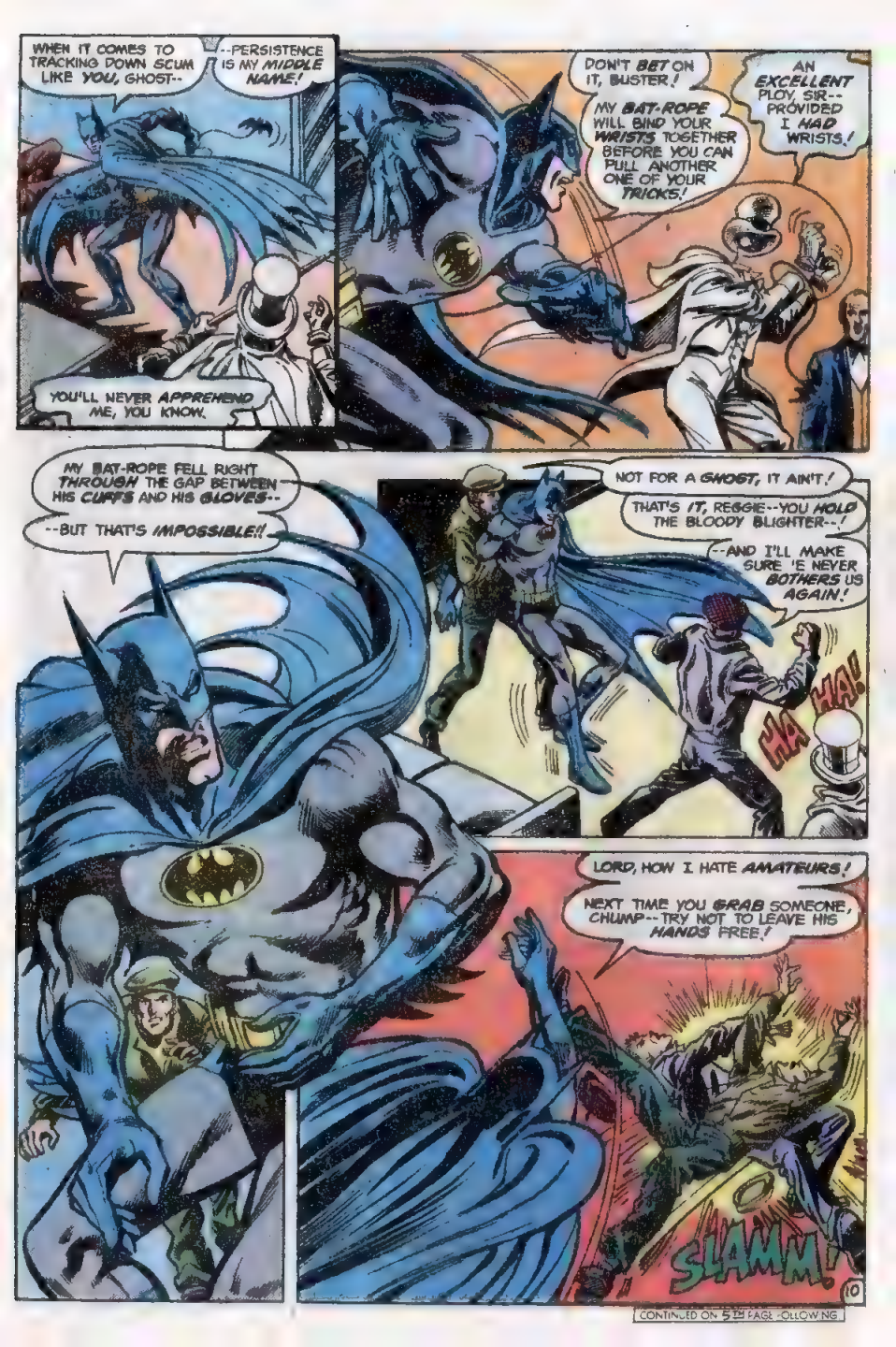






HAVE A HAUNTING NEW YEAR WITH THE MOST CHILLING COMICS OF ALL!


THUS, SHORTLY...
COULDN'T TRACK DOWN A TRACE OF ALFRED ONCE HE LEFT THAT PUB!
MIGHT AS WELL CHECK BACK HERE AT HOME-- SEE IF ALF'S BEEN FOUND YET.!
IF NOT, I HAVE A FEW THINGS DOWN IN THE BAT CAVE THAT MAY HELP ME PICK UP HIS--
--EH?
SOMEONE'S INSIDE MY APARTMENT--!?
THANK GOD-- IT'S ALFRED! HE'S ALL RIGHT!
BUT HE MIGHT NOT REMAIN THAT WAY FOR LONG-- CONSIDERING THE COMPANY HE'S KEEPING!
HAVE A CARE, YOU DOLTS-- THAT'S A PRICELESS ANTIQUE YOU'RE MANHANDLING HERE!
SORRY, GUV'NOR--WE'RE DOIN' THE BEST WE CAN!
POOR ALFRED--THIS JUST HASN'T BEEN HIS DAY, HAS IT? HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN HOME JUST IN TIME TO CATCH THE GHOST AND HIS GANG IN THE ACT!
THUS FAR, IT APPEARS THEY HAVEN'T HURT HIM--
TCHOK!
--AND I INTEND TO SEE IT STAYS THAT WAY!
HELL'S BELLS! IT'S THE BLASTED BATMAN AGAIN!
YOU CERTAINLY ARE A PERSISTENT SORT, OLD CHAP!


WHEN IT COMES TO TRACKING DOWN SCUM LIKE YOU, GHOST--
--PERSISTENCE IS MY MIDDLE NAME!
YOU'LL NEVER APPREHEND ME, YOU KNOW.
DON'T BET ON IT, BUSTER!
MY BAT-ROPE WILL BIND YOUR WRISTS TOGETHER BEFORE YOU CAN PULL ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR TRICKS!
AN EXCELLENT PLOY, SIR-- PROVIDED I HAD WRISTS!
MY BAT-ROPE FELL RIGHT THROUGH THE GAP BETWEEN HIS CUFFS AND HIS GLOVES--
--BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
NOT FOR A GHOST, IT AIN'T!
THAT'S IT, REGGIE--YOU HOLD THE BLOODY BLIGHTER--!
--AND I'LL MAKE SURE 'E NEVER BOTHERS US AGAIN!
HA HA!
LORD, HOW I HATE AMATEURS!
NEXT TIME YOU GRAB SOMEONE, CHUMP--TRY NOT TO LEAVE HIS HANDS FREE!
SLAMM!
10
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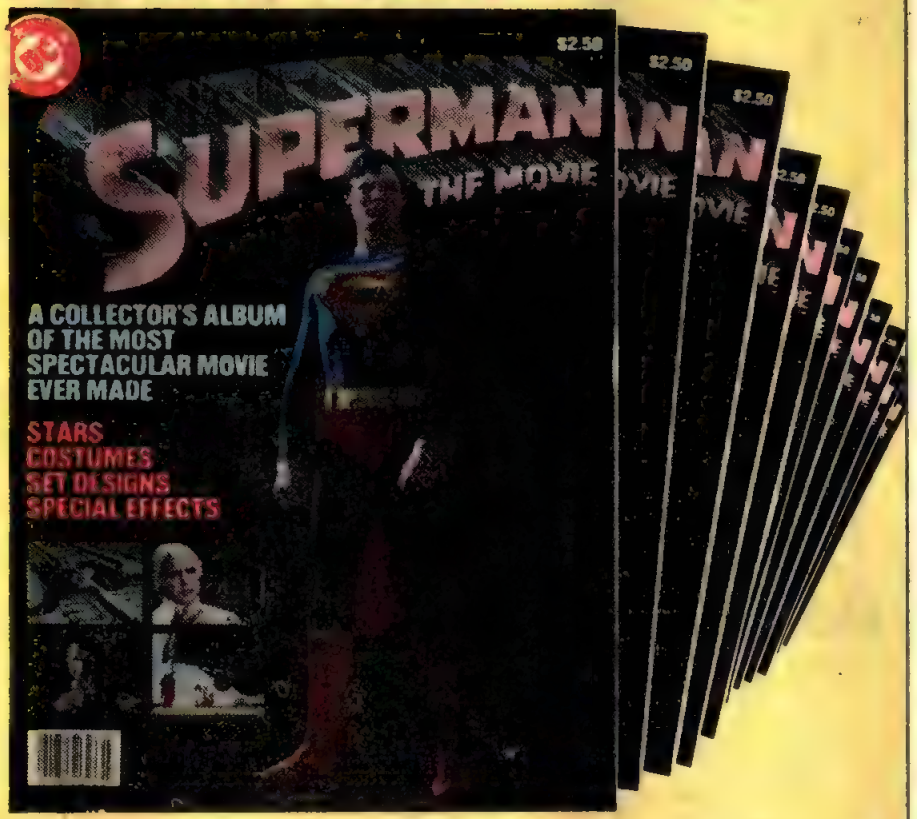

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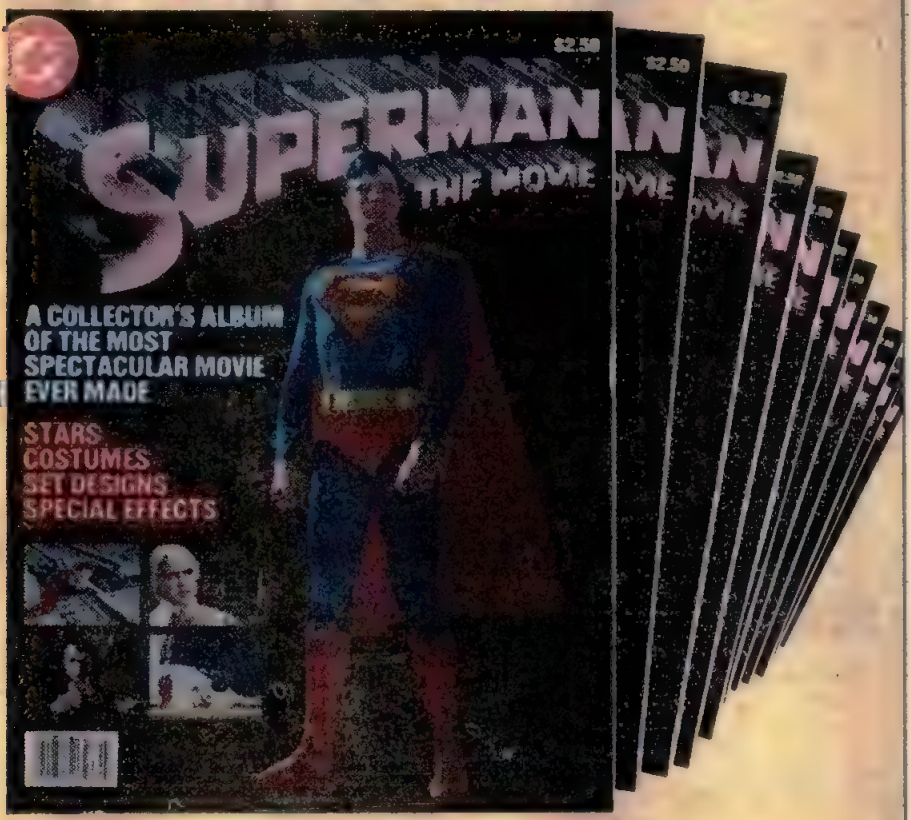

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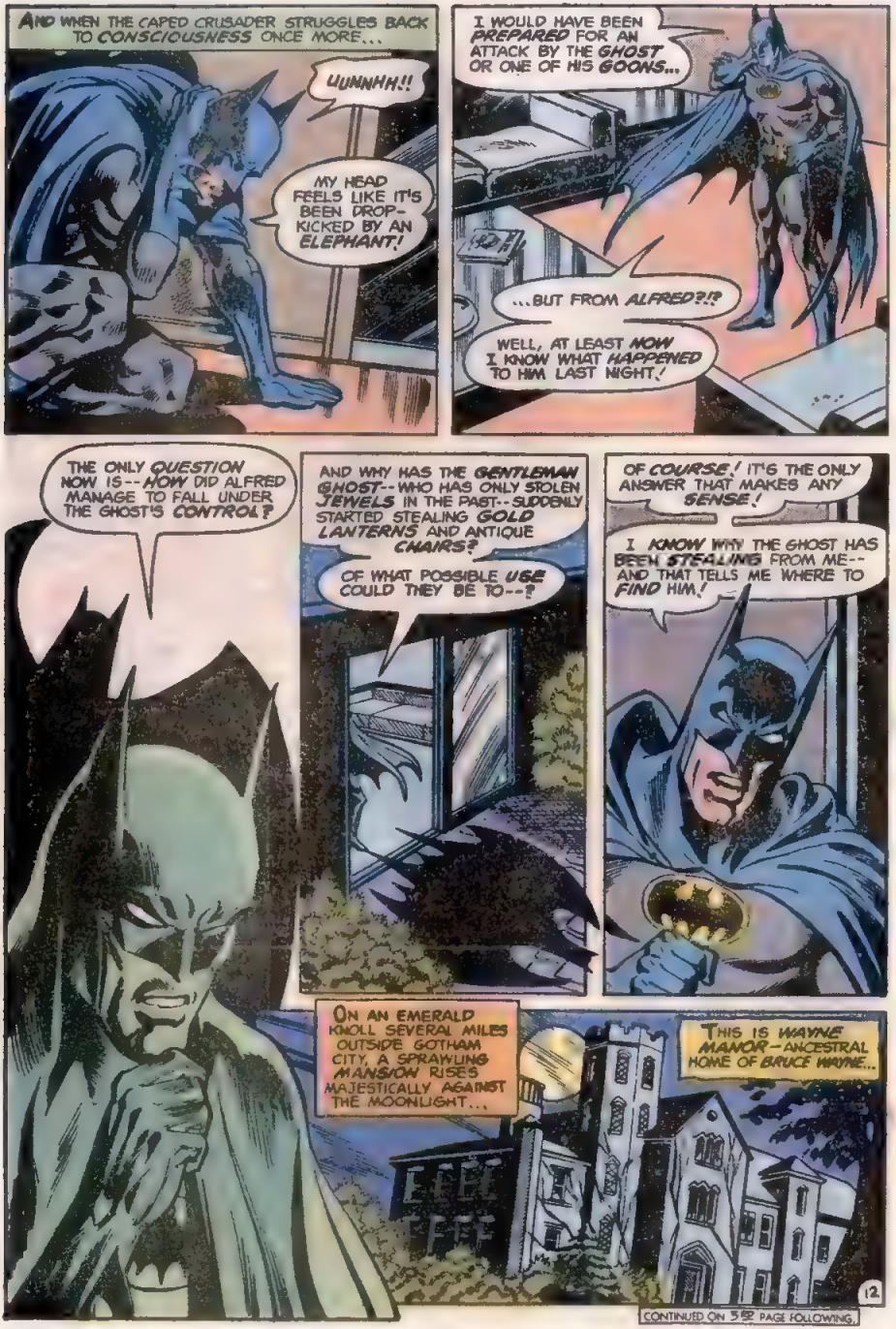
YOUR THREE STOOGES ARE OUT FOR THE COUNT, GHOST!
YOU CAN SURRENDER-- OR YOU CAN JOIN THEM!
IF YOU WANT ME, SIR-- YOU HAVE ONLY TO TAKE ME!
BUT AS THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE APPROACHES THE HOARY FIGURE...
EH? A BITTER-COLD WIND HAS SUDDENLY SPRUNG UP BEHIND HIM--
--TRYING TO PREVENT ME FROM REACHING THE GHOST!
HA HA HA HA
BUT THERE'S NOTHING THAT WILL KEEP ME FROM YOU NOW!
IN YOUR OWN WORDS, GOOD SIR--
--DON'T BET ON IT!!
WAP!
UUNNHH!!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR-- BUT YOU WERE THREATENING THE MASTER!
ALFRED--? YOU--?
YOU--?
AND THE LAST THING THE BATMAN HEARS AS HE SINKS INTO OBLIVION IS THE MOCKING PEAL OF HAUNTING LAUGHTER!
HA HA
HA!
11


AND WHEN THE CAPED CRUSADER STRUGGLES BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS ONCE MORE...
UUNNHH!!
MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN DROP-KICKED BY AN ELEPHANT!
I WOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR AN ATTACK BY THE GHOST OR ONE OF HIS GOONS...
...BUT FROM ALFRED?!?
WELL, AT LEAST NOW I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM LAST NIGHT!
THE ONLY QUESTION NOW IS--HOW DID ALFRED MANAGE TO FALL UNDER THE GHOST'S CONTROL?
AND WHY HAS THE GENTLEMAN GHOST--WHO HAS ONLY STOLEN JEWELS IN THE PAST--SUDDENLY STARTED STEALING GOLD LANTERNS AND ANTIQUE CHAIRS?
OF WHAT POSSIBLE USE COULD THEY BE TO--?
OF COURSE! IT'S THE ONLY ANSWER THAT MAKES ANY SENSE!
I KNOW WHY THE GHOST HAS BEEN STEALING FROM ME--AND THAT TELLS ME WHERE TO FIND HIM!
ON AN EMERALD KNOLL SEVERAL MILES OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, A SPRAWLING MANSION RISES MAJESTICALLY AGAINST THE MOONLIGHT...
THIS IS WAYNE MANOR--ANCESTRAL HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...
12
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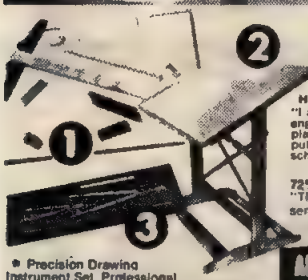

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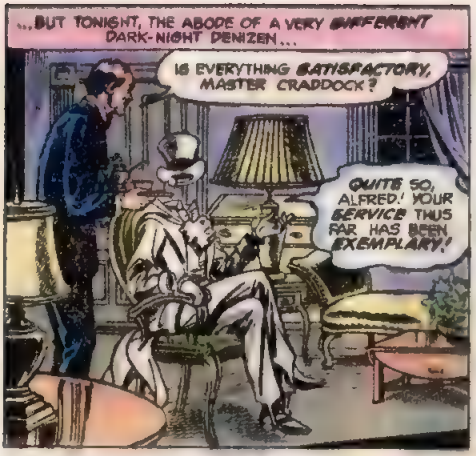
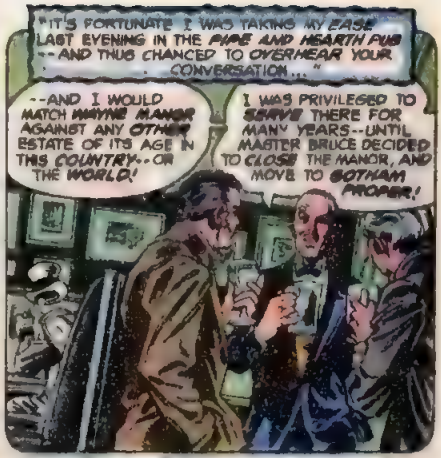
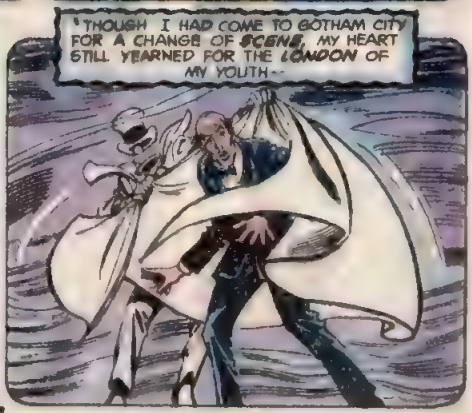
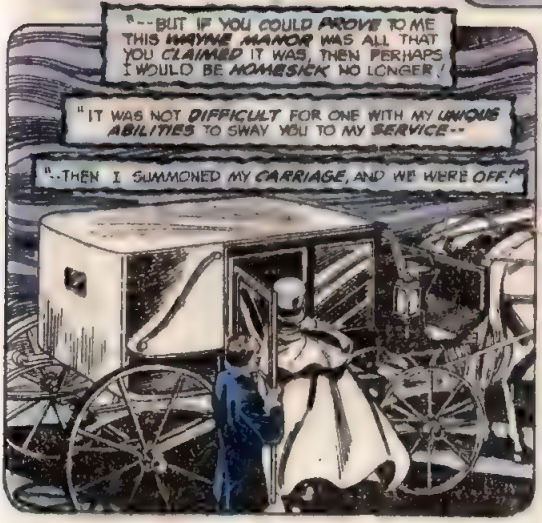

...BUT TONIGHT, THE ABODE OF A VERY DIFFERENT DARK-NIGHT DENIZEN...
IS EVERYTHING SATISFACTORY, MASTER CRADDOCK?
QUITE SO, ALFRED! YOUR SERVICE THUS FAR HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY!


"IT'S FORTUNATE I WAS TAKING MY EASE LAST EVENING IN THE PIPE AND HEARTH PUB --AND THUS CHANCED TO OVERHEAR YOUR CONVERSATION..."
--AND I WOULD MATCH WAYNE MANOR AGAINST ANY OTHER ESTATE OF ITS AGE IN THIS COUNTRY--OR THE WORLD!
I WAS PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THERE FOR MANY YEARS--UNTIL MASTER BRUCE DECIDED TO CLOSE THE MANOR, AND MOVE TO GOTHAM PROPER!

"MY CURIOSITY PIQUED, I FOLLOWED YOU FROM THE PUB--THE THICK NIGHT FOG STIRRING UNWANTED MEMORIES.

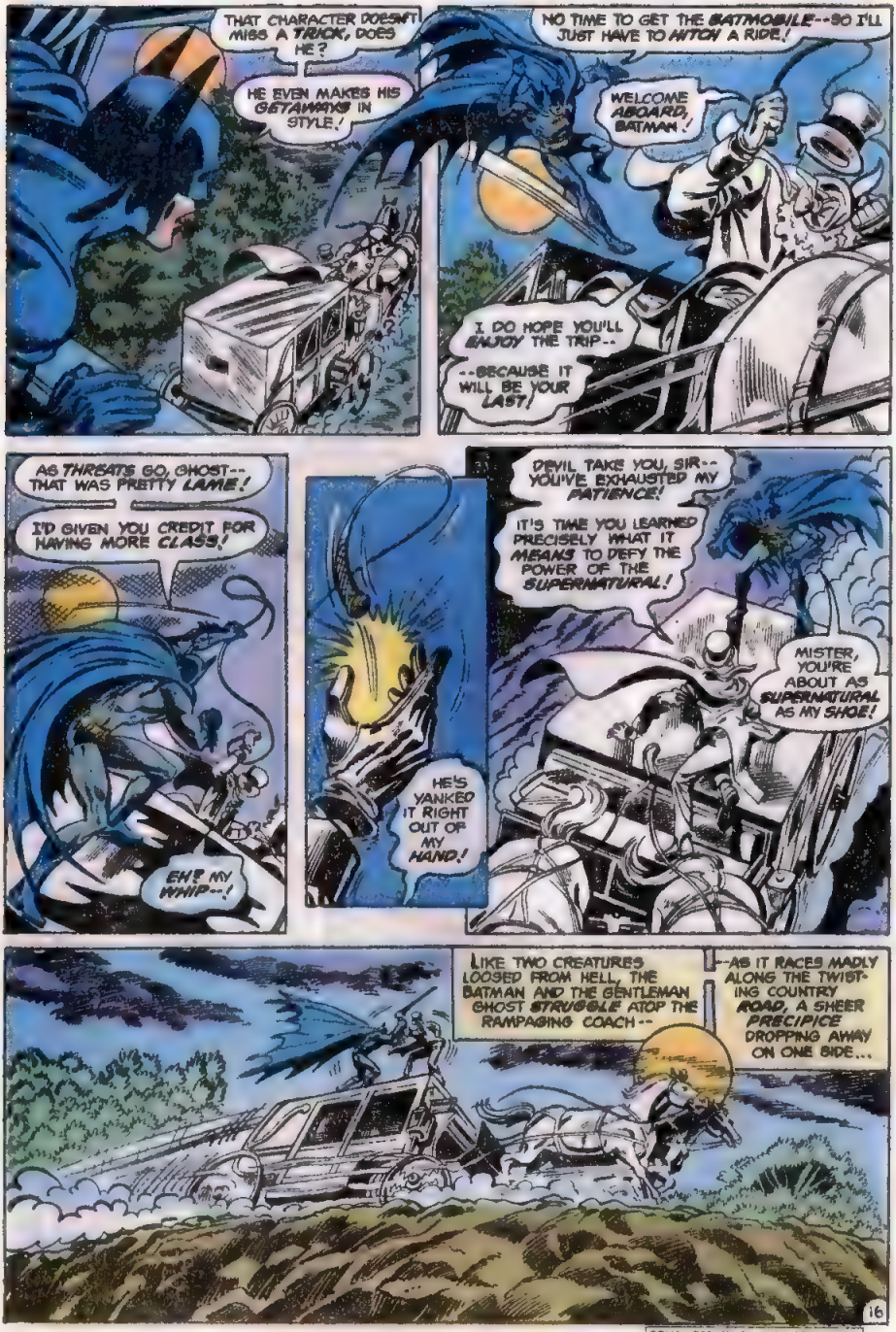

"THOUGH I HAD COME TO GOTHAM CITY FOR A CHANGE OF SCENE, MY HEART STILL YEARNED FOR THE LONDON OF MY YOUTH--


"--BUT IF YOU COULD PROVE TO ME THIS WAYNE MANOR WAS ALL THAT YOU CLAIMED IT WAS, THEN PERHAPS I WOULD BE HOMESICK NO LONGER!
"IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT FOR ONE WITH MY UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SWAY YOU TO MY SERVICE--
"..THEN I SUMMONED MY CARRIAGE, AND WE WERE OFF."

AND SOON, ONCE I'VE STOLEN A FEW MORE ITEMS AND RESTORED THIS FINE MANSION TO ITS CONDITION OF 150 YEARS AGO--
--I SHALL START LIVING IN THE STYLE TO WHICH I HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED!
THE ONLY STYLE YOU'LL BE GETTING USED TO, GHOST--

--IS PRISON GREY!
YOU AGAIN--?!?
YOU'VE INTRUDED ON ME FOR THE FINAL TIME, MANHUNTER!
EH? MY PISTOL--!?!
YOU WON'T NEED IT WHERE YOU'RE GOING, GHOST!
"PERHAPS I DON'T EVEN NEED IT NOW, GOOD SIR!"
ALFRED, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO PICK UP MY WEAPON, PLEASE?
CERTAINLY, MASTER CRADDOCK.
EXCELLENT, ALFRED! NOW I WOULD LIKE YOU TO POINT THE PISTOL DIRECTLY AT THE BATMAN--
--AND THEN PROMPTLY PULL THE TRIGGER!!
WHATEVER YOU WISH, SIR!
I SHALL...
I...
I...

NO! I--I CAN'T DO IT!
NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ALFRED?
FINE, SIR--NOW! MASTER CRADDOCK'S SPELL OVER ME IS BROKEN!
BUT THE GENTLEMAN HIMSELF IS GETTING AWAY!
DON'T WORRY--
--HE WON'T GET FAR!
THE GHOST HAS CUT OFF HIS OWN ESCAPE ROUTE!
IT'S A TWO-STORY DROP FROM THAT WINDOW!
AND, MUSCLES UNCOILING LIKE CATAPULT SPRINGS, THE BATMAN IS SUDDENLY
CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE HE MIGHT RISK THE JUMP!
BETTER NAIL CRADDOCK NOW--
--AND PUT AN END TO THIS SUPPOSED "GHOST" BUSINESS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
HUH? IT ISN'T HIM--JUST AN EMPTY SUIT OF CLOTHING--!
HE'S CONNED ME AGAIN!
BUT HOW DID HE--?
UH-OH.
HA HA HA HA HA
15


THAT CHARACTER DOESN'T MISS A TRICK, DOES HE?
HE EVEN MAKES HIS GETAWAYS IN STYLE!
NO TIME TO GET THE BATMOBILE--SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO HITCH A RIDE!
WELCOME ABOARD, BATMAN!
I DO HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY THE TRIP--
--BECAUSE IT WILL BE YOUR LAST!
AS THREATS GO, GHOST--THAT WAS PRETTY LAME!
I'D GIVEN YOU CREDIT FOR HAVING MORE CLASS!
EH? MY WHIP--!
HE'S YANKED IT RIGHT OUT OF MY HAND!
DEVIL TAKE YOU, SIR--YOU'VE EXHAUSTED MY PATIENCE!
IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED PRECISELY WHAT IT MEANS TO DEFY THE POWER OF THE SUPERNATURAL!
MISTER, YOU'RE ABOUT AS SUPERNATURAL AS MY SHOE!
LIKE TWO CREATURES LOOSED FROM HELL, THE BATMAN AND THE GENTLEMAN GHOST STRUGGLE ATOP THE RAMPAGING COACH--
--AS IT RACES MADLY ALONG THE TWISTING COUNTRY ROAD, A SHEER PRECIPICE DROPPING AWAY ON ONE SIDE...

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

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BUT, AS THE CARRIAGE REACHES A SUDDEN SHARP CURVE...
THE HORSES HAVE BROKEN THEIR TETHERS--! THE COACH IS HEADING FOR THE CLIFF--!
JUMP, CRADDOCK-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!
I--I CAN'T! MY CLOAK IS SNAGGED ON SOMETHING!
CAN'T PULL FREE--!!
K-RRASH!
NO.
AND, INSTANTS LATER, AS THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE WATCHES IN HELPLESS HORROR, THE CARRIAGE--AND THE GENTLEMAN GHOST--BOTH PLUNGE TO A SHATTERING FINISH!
BUT WHEN THE BATMAN EXAMINES THE STILL-SMOKING WRECKAGE...
NOT A TRACE OF CRADDOCK--EXCEPT HIS HAT! HE'S VANISHED--LIKE A GHOST!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE HAS TO BE A LOGICAL EXPLANATION...
HA HA HAHA HA HA
...DOESN'T THERE?
NEXT: TOGETHER AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS: THE BATMAN--AND BATGIRL!!
ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN FEBRUARY

Dear Julie,

I just heard a piece of news I couldn't quite believe: after fourteen years you're giving up the editorial reins of BATMAN. I remember the early days of the "New Look" Batman vividly, with the slicker artwork of Carmine Infantino and the infinitely more tightly-plotted stories you introduced. Not to mention the end of the era of Bat-everything, and the beginning of the World's Greatest Detective earning his title.

Then there was the growth and evolution of Robin from Boy Wonder to a more mature teenager, Bruce Wayne's change from playboy to philanthropist, and most recently, the first realistic romantic interest in the forty year history of the series, Silver St. Cloud.

The litany of writers and artists you brought to the series is endless, but perhaps most interesting for its range: traditional solid artists like Brown, Novick, Chua and Calnan, and the unique efforts of Adams, Robbins, Rogers and Golden; the definitive Batman of O'Neil, along with the efforts of Wein, Englehart, Robbins, Fox and Broome.

My ultimate test for an editor is whether he can impress his character on his magazines so powerfully that it need not be read to be recognized as his. And surely you accomplished that here.

Much as I look forward to your efforts as editor of the newly consolidated Superman line, I'm going to miss your BATMAN magic very much.

Paul Levitz
75 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10019

With that note we begin our tenure as editor of BATMAN, and with the hope that the high levels of quality established by Julie can be maintained in his absence. Of course, we have some awfully good help in the quality department, with regulars Len Wein and Irv Novick now guiding the destiny of Gotham's Guardian in this magazine, Denny O'Neil and Don Newton in DETECTIVE, and Bob Haney and Jim Aparo in BRAVE & BOLD. Enough of us, though. This is supposed to be your page.—PL.

*****

Dear Bob,

In Bat-Signals for BATMAN #305 you told us to re-read #300 because there was a hint that told who Dick had married. I am no Batman, but I decided to think like the internationally famous Belgian detective with the large moustaches, and my thoughts follow:

"So who does the young M. Grayson wed? To discover, I must use the little gray cells.

"I recall the former Batman mentioning the names of M. Grayson's children. Twins, I believe. The names used were Bruce and James. A check of page 34, panel 2 proves this. Obviously M. Grayson has named his children after the men he would admire most. Bruce Wayne, and Police Commissioner James W. Gordon. An affectionate gesture, no?

"But then I use the gray cells. Children are not named after persons merely for admiration. Also for love, which one has for close friends—and relatives, e.g.: uncles, fathers, grandfathers. Naturally, M. Bruce Wayne is considered a grandfather. But there is the second child. The James Grayson enfant. Assuming the child was named after the Commissioner, and I am confident he was, how could this man be considered a grandfather?

"Unless, of course, the Commissioner was the grandfather. But how could this be? Mon ami, it practically stares us in the nose! Impossible, unless M. Grayson married one of Gordon's children. And it is a fact that he has only one daughter—Barbara.

"When one uses the gray cells, it is simplistic!"

I knew it took awhile, but that detective always did have a habit about being longwinded with the solutions.

Kenneth Williams
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But it longwinded. Poriot was also almost always right . . . and his spirit inspired you to the solution Julie and Dave had in mind when they plotted "Batman's Last Case." Whether that's how it will truly happen, only time can tell.—PL.

*****

NEXT ISSUE: Batgirl's back in action with Batman, for the first time in almost ten years . . . and Dr. Phosphorus is on hand to join them both in unholy cheer, courtesy of guest writer Steve Englehart. Be there . . . it's part of the Batman's fortieth anniversary excitement!—Paul Levitz, Editor

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EXTRA DAILY PLANET™ EXTRA

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 1 WEEK OF JANUARY 1, 1979 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

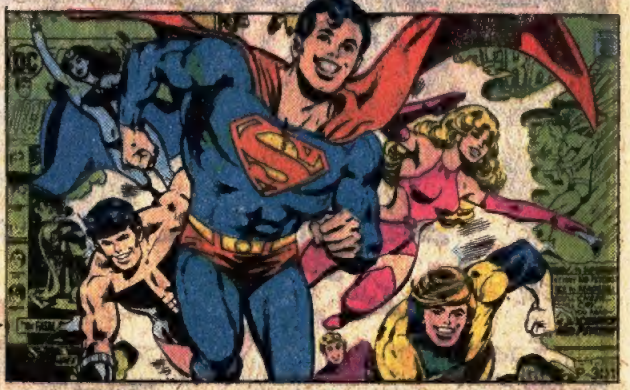
LEGION BETRAYED!

STARLIN, LEVITZ PRESENT NEWEST LEGION EPIC!

(30th Century)—One of the *Legionnaires* has turned traitor and threatens to destory the entire universe! Who is it? And why?

Chameleon Boy knows—but will he live to tell the others?And what connection does the traitorous *Legionnaire* have with Omega—a menace more powerful than the Sun-Eater?

Get ready for one of the most mind-staggering *Legion of Super-Heroes* epics yet in "This Is The Day The Universe Dies" by Jim Starlin, Paul Levitz, and Dave Hunt. It's all in *SUPERBOY AND THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES* #250, on sale the week of January 22nd!



ANSWER MAN

Q: What magazines did *The Spectre* appear in?—John Runion. *A:* He had his own feature in *MORE FUN COMICS, ADVENTURE COMICS* and *THE SPECTRE* (plus a couple of *SHOWCASE* appearances!)

Q: How about a team-up of the two *Robins*?—Michael McGroarty. *A:* There are no plans at present, but perhaps *DETECTIVE COMICS* editor Paul Levitz is listening . . .

Q: What is *Sinestro's* power?—Anonymous. *A:* He has a power ring similar to *Green Lantern's* except that the beam is yellow.

Q: How about a team-up of the Earth-2 *Robin* with the *Huntress*?—Scott Nakasone. *A:* Again, we turn the matter over to Paul Levitz.

Q: How does Ultra Boy change from one power to another?—Randy Stevens. *A:* He can mentally control his power changes.

Q: Is it true they're making a two-hour *Batman* movie for TV?—John Belcher. *A:* We've heard rumors of one, but there is nothing definite at this time.

Q: Any chance *Rose and the Thorn* will be showing up soon?—Annie Gold. *A:* She'll be popping up in *SUPERMAN* #336, on sale in March.

Q: I came across a comic titled *ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN* and I'd swear the cover is by Kurt Schaffenberger. Did he draw under the name Lou Wahl?—Trinja Reynolds. *A:* Yes.

Q: Who killed Bruce Wayne's parents?—Eric Levine. *A:* A mugger named Joe Chill.

Q: Why does Atlantis have a dome over it? Don't they all breathe underwater?—John Longo. *A:* Yes, they do. The dome is for protection.

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BRAVE & BOLD #149—The *Teen Titans* get together to aid *Batman* in "Look Homeward, Runaway" by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY #267—T. Casey Brennan and Abe Ocampo provide "A Strange Way to Die"; Don Thompson and Rubeny trap "The Mouse of History"; and Steve. Clement, Juan Ortiz and Augie Scotto net "The Lovely Little Lady With the Sea-Green Tail".

SUPERMAN #334—Can you solve the bizarre mystery of "The Man Who Stole Superman's Eyes?" Martin Pasko, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte provide the solution.

WEIRD WESTERN TALES #54—*Scalphunter* finds that he must run the "Blockade" to succeed in this Gerry Conway/Dick Ayers/Romeo Tanghal collaboration.

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(France, WW II)—The Nazis have armed a munitions train with deadly V-2 rockets and converted it into a mobile launching pad!

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